

Subject: Support for HB0833/SB0536

To: Judiciary Committee

From: Shira Ram

Date: February 18, 2020

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I come from a family of 7 children. I have only one sister. She is the oldest. She was the one who guided me and supported me as a child and a teenager.

When my sister got married, she thought she was marrying the man she would spend the rest of her life with. Actually, we all did; but sadly he had fooled us all.

Shortly after they got married, her husband began to become verbally abusive. As the years went on, the verbal abuse turned into physical abuse.

Once this abuse began, I started to lose grasp of my sister. The once very extroverted and happy individual my family and I knew was not recognizable.

My sister was a very selfless individual. She always went out of her way to help others.

I remember asking myself, "What could she have done wrong to put herself in this situation?" But then I realized she did absolutely nothing wrong. Victims of domestic abuse don't do anything wrong—this is why they are called VICTIMS.

After many, many years of my sister suffering from such abuse, she FINALLY had the courage to walk away when she realized her children were being abused as well.

But sadly, her ex-husband continued to abuse her—even though she was no longer living with him nor civilly married to him. How you wonder is this possible?

My sister is Jewish and in the Jewish religion, in order for her to move on with her life and get remarried, she must be given a "Get" by her husband; He refused to give her a "Get", this inhibited her from moving on with her life. But in the end he resorted to extortion and asked for one million dollars in exchange for a "Get".

It was then that my sister called me and told me what was going on and asked for my help so she could finally be free of the abuse; what she needed was a lot of money. My siblings, parents, and I did whatever we could to get the money together.

Till this day she continues to pay back her monetary debt and it has financially crippled her. The reason I am here today is to tell you why I consider my sister lucky. She is Lucky to be free of her abuser, because for him giving the get was about getting a large some of money—For most men they want to continue the abuse by permanently controlling their ex-spouse's future. – without giving the get women are left as victims in chains for the rest of their lives.

This is why I am now asking this committee to pass the bill and give other victims their freedom, a happy ending.

Thank you.